VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MARCH 2008

TWO DOLLARS

Annual Photography Contest Showcase

A Picture Perfect Journey

For as long as I can remember I have had a fascination with the art of photography. I have to admit I'm a bit of a gadget person and people who enjoy photography have lots of neat tools to work with when taking pictures. What I think really captured my imagination was the ability to take a moment in time, instantly freeze it, and then share it with friends and family.

My first exposure to really good photography came in the form of a magazine called *Virginia Wildlife*. I was very young at the time and a wide-eyed kid who couldn't get enough of playing in the outdoors. My father takes much of the credit for introducing me to the great outdoors. I can still remember waiting for dad's copy of *Virginia Wildlife* to arrive each month in the mail. After my father finished reading it he would take the time to share with me the wealth of information found in each issue. It became an indispensable outdoor guide for the both of us in our adventures afield and afloat.

As I look back now I would be remiss if I didn't warn some of our readers that there might be a downside to introducing a youngster to a great outdoor magazine at such an early age. While reading through the pages of *Virginia Wildlife* I would often find myself daydreaming about some secret fishing hole or hunting a dark, deep forest somewhere in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Sometimes this enjoyable pastime would take place during my school days. Unfortunately, this led on more than one occasion to a sharp reprimand from a well meaning teacher who would ask me in front of the whole class, what was so interesting that it would completely distract me from my studies.

For more than 70 years *Virginia Wildlife* has been entertaining and educating people who love the outdoors. Not only here in Virginia, but throughout the United States, and even overseas where many men and women serving in the military find, through its pages, a way to bring them a little closer to home. From its humble beginnings the goal of *Virginia Wildlife* has been to enlighten people on the accomplishements of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. It also helps to spread the word about the work being done by other groups and organizations in preserving and protecting Virginia's outdoor heritage. In doing so *Virginia Wildlife* has become one of the leading wildlife and outdoor magazines in the country and a priceless historical record of those activities and management programs.

As fate would have it my love for the outdoors would eventually lead me, some 40 years later, to become the editor of *Virginia Wildlife*. For the last 10 years, I have had the great pleasure of helping to select the articles, photographs and artwork that you have come to enjoy. I have also had the opportunity to meet and become friends with many of you who share a like interest of the outdoors.

On occasion I have had the pleasure of hearing from many of our loyal and longtime subscribers, who comment on how much they enjoy the magazine—especially the photography. Much of the success of *Virginia Wildlife* goes to those same people who have taken their time to share with all of us their stories and photographs.

This year's Annual Photography Contest Showcase is a good example of what happens when we hear from enough of you. This special issue has quickly become one of the most popular issues, and one of the most difficult to assemble. From the countless hours spent by the magazine staff in reviewing, judging and design, to the hundreds of people who have submitted photographs, this issue has truly become a labor of love, as well as a stunning, visual journey into Virginia's outdoors. Hopefully this will inspire many of you to spend more time in the outdoors, whether it is hunting, fishing, boating or taking photographs.

Next month I will begin a new journey within the Department and you will once again be introduced to a new editor, who like myself, will be given the chance to capture and share some of the best that Virginia has to offer. As I step aside as editor I would like for each of you to do me a favor. Share your copy of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine or purchase a subscription for your son or daughter—especially a wide-eyed youngster who finds more fun in catching crawdads in a nearby creek, than sitting at home playing video games or watching television. Who knows, that youngster, filled with hopes and dreams of preserving and protecting Virginia's wildlife and natural resources, might become editor of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine one day.

Naturally yours,
Lee Walker

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

Commonwealth of Virginia
Timothy M. Kaine, Governor

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE FEES
Subsidized this publication

Secretary of Natural Resources
L. Preston Bryant, Jr.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
G. Michael Bise
Acting Director

Members of the Board
Ward Burton, Halifax
Sherry Smith Crumley, Buchanan
William T. Greer, Jr., Norfolk
James W. Hazel, Oakton
C. T. Hill, Midlothian
Randy J. Kozuch, Alexandria
John W. Montgomery, Jr., Sandston
Mary Louisa Pollard, Irvington
Richard E. Railey, Courtland
Thomas A. Stroup, Fairfax
Charles S. Yates, Cleveland

Magazine Staff
Lee Walker, Editor
Ron Messina, Julia Dixon, Contributing Editors
Emily Pels, Art Director
Carol Kushlak, Production Editor

Color separations and printing by
Progress Printing, Lynchburg, VA.

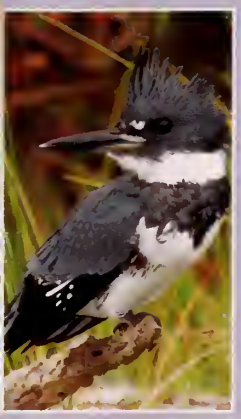
Virginia Wildlife (ISSN 0042 6792) is published monthly by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Send all subscription orders and address changes to *Virginia Wildlife*, P. O. Box 7477, Red Oak Iowa 51591-0477. Address all other communications concerning this publication to *Virginia Wildlife*, P. O Box 11104, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond Virginia 23230-1104. Subscription rates are $12.95 for one year, $23.95 for two years; $2.00 per each back issue, subject to availability. Out-of-country rate is $24.95 for one year and must be paid in U.S. funds. No refunds for amounts less than $5.00. **To subscribe, call toll-free (800) 710-9369.** Postmaster Please send all address changes to *Virginia Wildlife* P.O. Box 7477, Red Oak, Iowa 51591-0477. Postage for periodicals paid at Richmond, Virginia and additional entry offices.

Copyright 2008 by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. All rights reserved.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries ATTN: Compliance Officer, (4010 West Broad Street. P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104.

"This publication is intended for general informational purposes only and every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy. The information contained herein does not serve as a legal representation of fish and wildlife laws or regulations. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries does not assume responsibility for any change in dates, regulations, or information that may occur after publication."

MARCH CONTENTS



Front Cover: Grand Prize
This year's winner of the coveted Grand Prize spot goes to Marie Majarov of Winchester, for her super closeup of the elusive belted kingfisher, a bird well known for being difficult to photograph. Marie was able to catch this image along the beach road at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge as the bird was hunting for fish.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 100-400mm IS lens at 400mm, ISO 400, 1/250th, f.7.1 using a Canon 580 EX flash for fill light.

Back Cover: Grand Prize for Kids
This year's winner of the coveted Kid's Grand Prize is Dillion Rapalee, age 14, of Goochland. Dillion's delightful close look at a gray tree frog getting ready to leap from its perch really grabbed the judges attention. Of all the photographs he's taken so far, Dillon mentions that this is probably his most favorite.

Nikon Coolpix P4 digital camera, ISO 50, no shutter speed recorded, f.3.0.

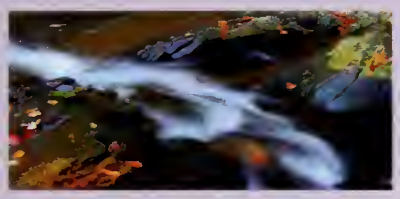
VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

Magazine Subscriptions

For subscriptions and address changes only call

1-800-710-9369

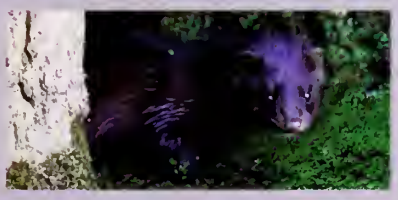
12 issues for $12.95
24 issues for $23.95
36 issues for $29.95



5 SCENIC SEASONS

9 COLD AND CLAMMY CRITTERS

13 THE SPORTING LIFE

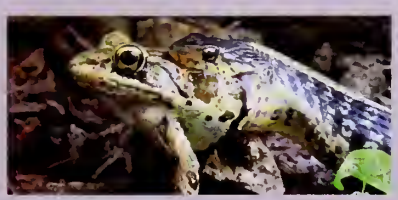


17 MARVELOUS MAMMALS

21 A BUG'S LIFE

25 BIRDS OF A FEATHER

29 FANTASTIC FLOWERS



33 KIDS AND CAMERAS

Kodak
www.kodak.com

Virginia *is for Lovers*
www.virginia.org

Richmond Camera
www.richmondcamera.com

Virginia Wildlife

Annual Photography Contest Showcase

"Photography takes an instant out of time, altering life by holding it still."

Dorothea Lange

by Lynda Richardson

Hovering around the computer, we sat in darkness, our only light the soft and sometimes colorful glow of the monitor. A slow but consistent "click, click, click" of the mouse marked time, and was punctuated by an occasional "ohhhh man, that's a good one." This year, we were doing things very differently!

There were no intimidating volumes of Fed Ex packages and manila envelopes lining the walls this year. Instead, we sat around a table with a 17" MacBook Pro laptop in front of us and viewed nearly all of the entries. Throughout the year as entries for the contest poured in, Kim Crockett, office manager for VDGIF Information Division, recorded their receipt, loaded the digital files onto the computer, renamed the files by photographer's name, and then placed each entry into folders by categories. Prints and slides, of which there were very few, were held to the side for careful review as we judged each category.

Folks, it really has become "A DIGITAL AGE." We had very few slides or prints from negatives submitted. But it wasn't surprising. Digital photography is taking over! Because of this, we have decided there will be some rule changes, so be sure to read the rules for the next contest. For example, next year, we will only take digital files, no prints or slides. But don't let that scare away our film shooters! You folks can still have your slides and prints/negatives scanned into digital format.

Because of the ease of digital photography, more folks than ever submitted to the competition. This year, we had 307 individual photographers enter as opposed to last year's 212. The number of entries decreased to around 1,500 from last year's 3,300 but that was because we limited the number of entries per entrant.

Another thing we noticed is that photographers submitted many more photographs from their own backyards. Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge were the favorite "away from home" locations.

Judging the competition, Lee Walker, editor of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine, and Emily Pels, art director of the magazine, and I, carefully reviewed and discussed the entries. It took us two whole days just to review the work and make a selection of our favorite images. During that time, I listened closely to Lee and Emily's comments. There are different ways to look at and judge photographs and it all depends on where you "come from." Lee has an editorial and wildlife photography background so despite his fantastic eye for artistic quality in an image, he tended to lean towards photographs that captured a moment or a hard to find animal even if the photograph might not be technically perfect. As an art director, Emily preferred images that she felt were more artistic and well composed. As an art major with an editorial and wildlife photography background, I was trying to look at everything but when it came down to it, I leaned towards "the moment." So as you can imagine, for the final judging we needed help from Carol Kushlak, production editor, and Kim Crockett to even out the score.

There were many entries that just didn't make the cut because of the same reoccurring problems. Some photographs simply were not sharp, others were too pixelated or the color was overly saturated. In others, backgrounds or foregrounds were too busy, competing with the subject. And we are still even seeing images with the time and date stamps on them. Turn that function off! So, in a continued effort to help you improve your photography, please watch for upcoming "Photo Tips" columns in *Virginia Wildlife* magazine. In future columns, look for information addressing some of the problems we noticed during this year's contest.

Some photographers really got it right! How about the fantastic cover shot of a female belted kingfisher captured by Marie Majarov of Winchester? Do you know how difficult a kingfisher is to photograph? Look how sharp it is and how the beautiful light really adds to the image quality. And check out our back cover taken by 14-year-old Dillon Rapalee. Dillon reports that this is the best photograph he's ever taken. Yes sir-ree Dillon, good enough for the coveted back cover!

Well, a contest wouldn't be a contest without prizes, so this year I'd like to thank our wonderful contest sponsors: Eastman Kodak Company, Richmond Camera, and, of course, *Virginia Wildlife* magazine. Eastman Kodak is donating professional inkjet photo paper for all the first place winners. For second place, Richmond Camera is donating $50 gift certificates towards processing, and *Virginia Wildlife* is offering official Virginia Wildlife ball caps for third. Again, we'd like to extend a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to our dedicated and generous sponsors!

So, pick up this very special issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine, find a nice comfy chair, sit down, relax and enjoy! Whether you placed in this year's competition, or not, you are still a winner! Because of your love for photography, beautiful imagery, and the great outdoors, you will always have a lifetime of enjoyment surrounding you. Congratulations and Happy Shooting!

Please note changes on "How to Enter" the 2008 Annual Photography Contest Showcase.
http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/events/photo-contest.pdf

Scenic Seasons

"The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness."

John Muir

FIRST PLACE

Billy Dodson
Williamsburg

White Oak fire trail just above the falls, Shenandoah National Park.

Billy wins first place for his gorgeous photograph of a stream along a fire road. The judges loved this image because it had so many positive elements going for it; beautiful, soft overcast light, great color leading your eye from the front to the back of the image creating a wonderful composition, mist captured well but still retaining detail in the background, and lastly, a slow exposure to blur the water in the foreground, really adding to the overall feeling of the shot. Billy mentions that he had been to this site before and decided to return in the fall on a wet day. After hours of shooting hundreds of photographs, Billy left only to be caught in a torrential downpour.

Nikon D70 digital camera, Nikkor 17-35mm f.2.8 lens, ISO, 1.6 seconds, f.22.0.

SECOND PLACE

Douglas Graham
Bluemont

A view from the Appalachian Trail and Bears Den Lodge at Route 7, Bluemont.

Nikon D200 digital camera, Nikkor 28-70mm f.2.8 lens, ISO none recorded, 1/125th, f.8.0.

"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

Rachel Carson

Scenic Seasons

THIRD PLACE

Marie Majarov
Winchester

Assateague Channel Sunset, from Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 100-400 mm lens, ISO 400, 1/320th, f.5.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Andrea Ferguson
Altavista

Secluded barn de-saturated to appear as a black and white. No location mentioned.

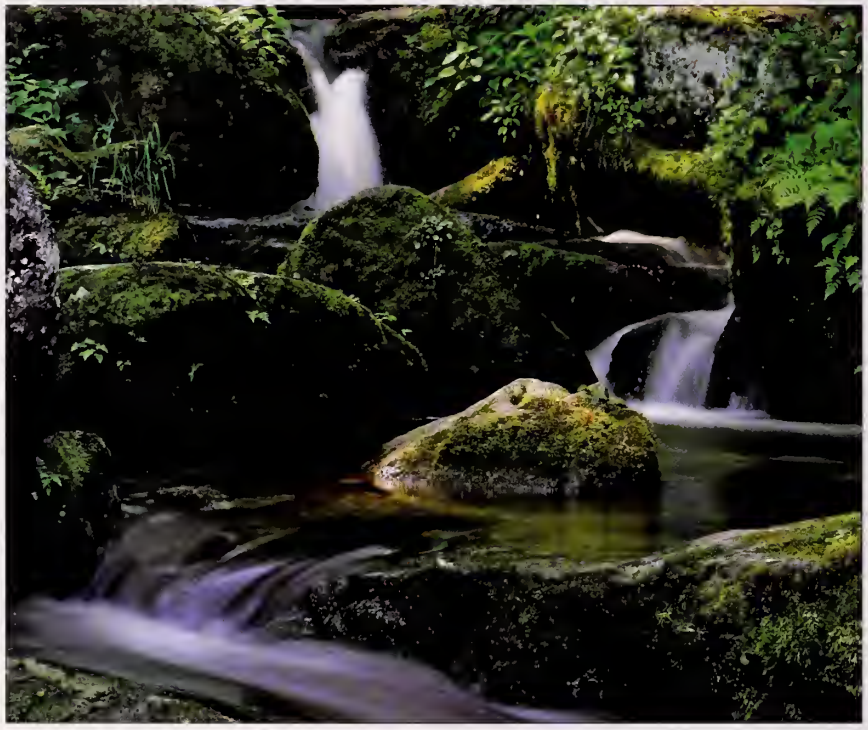
Canon Rebel XT digital camera, Canon 24-70mm lens, ISO 200, 1/100th, f.7.1.

HONORABLE MENTION

Jene Smith
Richmond

Sunrise along Beach Road, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Canon Rebel XT digital camera, Canon 100-400mm lens, ISO 400, 1/60th, f.8.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

David L. Everette
Richmond

Crabtree Falls, Shenandoah National Park.

Mamiya 645 4.5 x 6 large format film camera, 45mm lens, Fuji Provia film, settings unrecorded.

HONORABLE MENTION

Douglas Graham
Bluemont

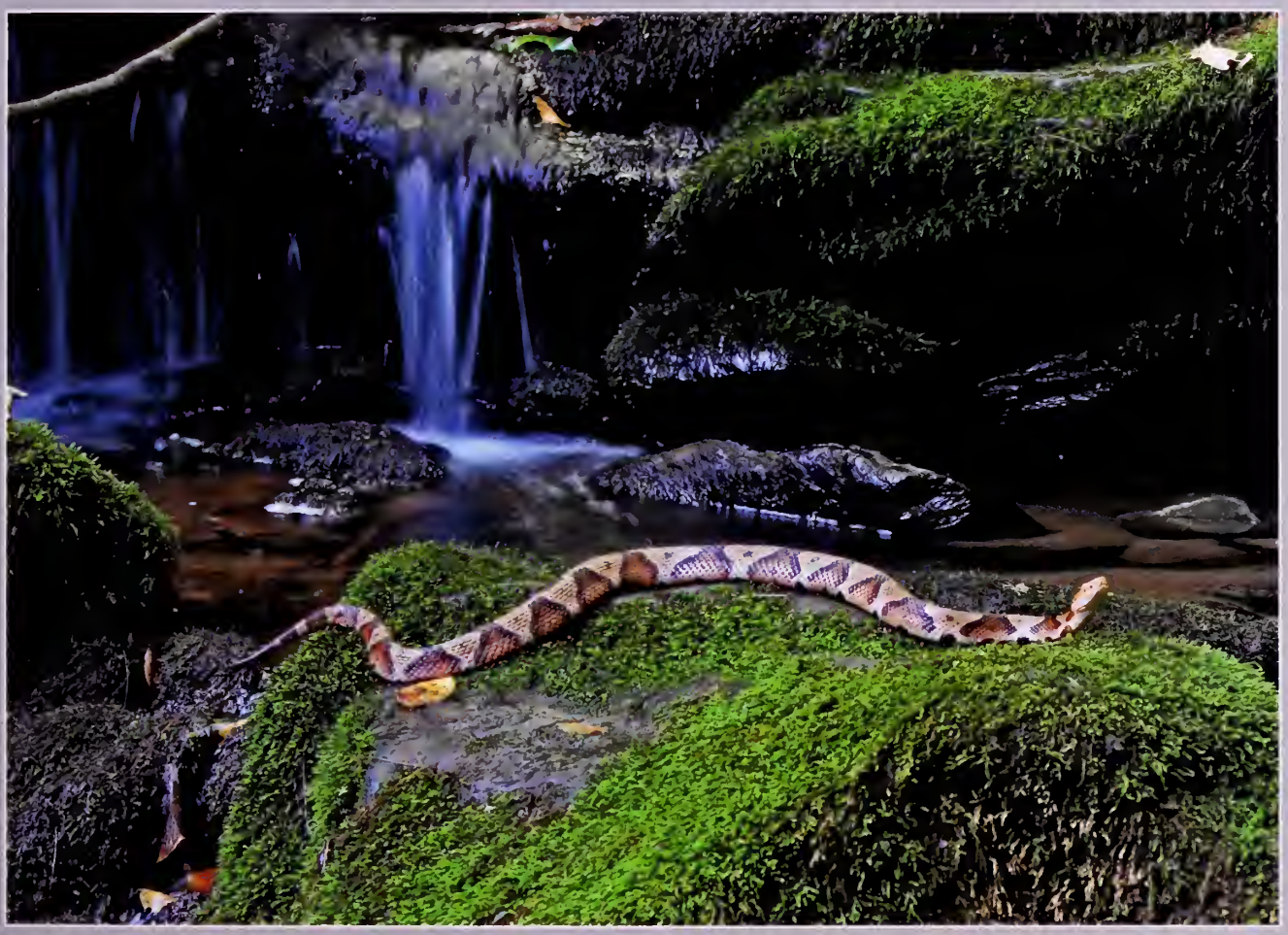
A standing pool of water, western view, Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke County.

Nikon D200 digital camera, Nikkor 28-70mm f2.8 lens, ISO none recorded, 1/30th, f.11.0.

Cold and Clammy Critters

"Life is dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures."

His Holiness The Dalai Lama



FIRST PLACE

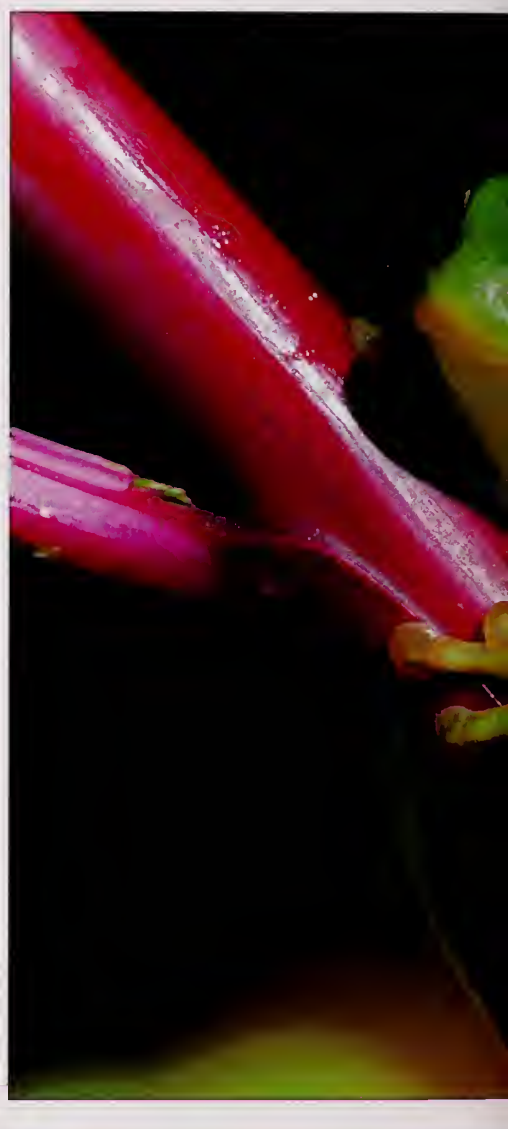
Roland Osborne
Charlottesville

Northern copperhead, Blue Hole outside White Hall, Shenandoah County.

Roland wins first place for his striking image of a copperhead sunning itself on a mossy rock. The judges loved this photograph for its unusual nature (How often do you see a copperhead sunning in the middle of a creek?) and for a nice composition showing the animal in its beautiful environment.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, 18-200mm lens, ISO 400, 0.5 sec, f.7.1.

Cold and Cla



SECOND PLACE

Dennis Jordan
Powhatan

American toads breeding in a backyard pond, Powhatan.

Fuji Finepix S2Pro digital camera, Nikkor 105mm macro lens, ISO 100, 1/60th, f.8.0.

ny Critters

"If you talk to the animals they will talk with you and you will know each other. If you do not talk to them you will not know them, and what you do not know you will fear. What one fears, one destroys.

Chief Dan George

THIRD PLACE

Randy Streufert
Mason Neck

Green tree frog in pokeberry, Jacob's Creek, Mason Neck.

Nikon D200 digital camera, Nikkor 200mm micro lens, ISO 400, 1/125th, f.10.

HONORABLE MENTION

Marie Majarov
Winchester

Black racer hatchling, Winchester.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 100mm macro lens, ISO 400, 1/250th, f.16, with a macro twin light with diffusion.

HONORABLE MENTION

Richard Cox
Bumpass

Northern fence lizard, Bumpass.

Canon EOS 5D digital camera, Canon 300mmL IS lens w/Canon 1.4X extender, ISO 400, 1/500th, f.8.0.

"It's not easy being green."

Kermit the frog

HONORABLE MENTION

Trevor Boyd
Falmouth

Green tree frog, Fredericksburg.

Canon Rebel XT digital camera, Sigma 70-300mm lens on macro setting, ISO 100, 1/125th, f.5.6, flash fired.

The Sporting Life

FIRST PLACE

Eric Rutherford
Abingdon

Black Labrador retrieving a Canada goose, Washington County.

Eric wins first place for his wonderful photograph of a friend's Labrador retriever, Max, bringing back a Canada goose during a goose hunt. The judges loved this image because it was well composed, sharp. You can see the dog's eye catch the light as he moves into the frame and through the field. The goose can be seen well and is very sharp. This photograph captures a moment when a hunter's best friend is at work, doing what he loves to do best.

Nikon D50 digital camera, Nikkor 80-200mm lens, ISO 400, 1/400th, f.2.8.

"Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot little puppies."

Gene Hill

"The river called. The call is the thundering rumble of distant rapids, the intimate roar of white water.... a primeval summons to primordial values."

John J. Craighead

SECOND PLACE

Tim Farmer

Round Hill

Whitewater kayaker during annual Whitewater Festival, "The Fingers," Potomac River at Great Falls.

Canon 20D digital camera, lens unknown, ISO 400, 1/2000th, f.7.1.

THIRD PLACE

Ted W. Sweetland, Jr.

Midlothian

Enjoying a refreshing light rain after a hike, Rocky Mount Trail, Shenandoah National Park.

Canon 30D digital camera, Canon 18-55mm lens, ISO 400, 1/125th, f.5.6, Canon 420 EX Speedlite for fill flash.

HONORABLE MENTION

John Irby

Richmond

Ashley Hinkle tries to catch her cousin, Josh Jones, Lake Anna.

Nikon D70 digital camera, Nikkor 70-300mm lens, no ISO or shutter speed recorded, f.8.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Douglas Graham

Bluemont

French Brittany retrieving a bobwhite quail, location not reported.

Nikon 200D digital camera, Nikkor 70-200mm lens, 1/300th, f.3.5.

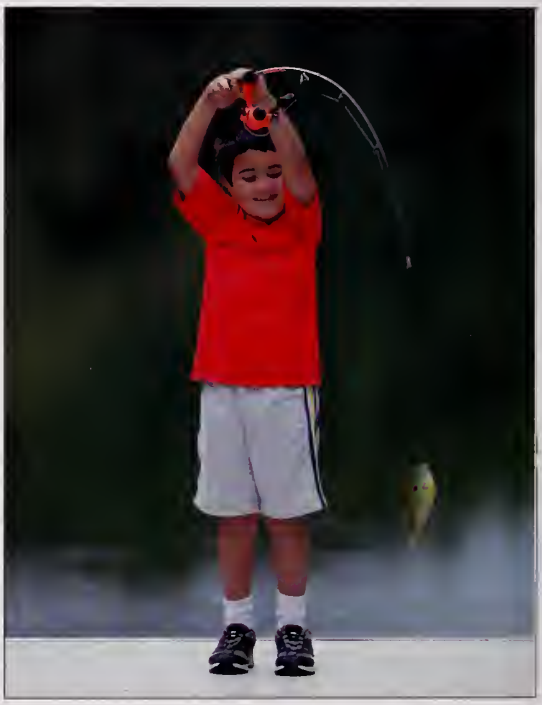
HONORABLE MENTION

Denise Martin

Glen Allen

Father and son hike along fire road in Shenandoah National Park.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Canon 28-135mm IS lens, ISO 800, 1/100th, f.6.3.



HONORABLE MENTION

Richard D. Cox

Bumpass

Grandson Wyatt captures a bluegill on a hotdog, Bumpass.

Canon EOS 5D digital camera, Canon 300mmL IS lens, ISO 400, 1/180th, f.4.0.

Marvelous Mammals

FIRST PLACE

Robert Pitman
Colonial Beach

Mink, Westmoreland County.

Do you know how hard it is to get a great shot of a mink? Not only did the judges love this photograph because it's a fabulous shot of a mink in the wild, we also loved the clean, well done composition, sharpness of the image, and the fact it showed the animal in its natural habitat, along the water's edge of a beaver pond. Congratulations on capturing first place with this hard to photograph subject!

Canon EOS Rebel digital camera, 75-300mm lens, 1/50th, f.5.0.

"An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language."

Martin Buber

Marvelous Mammals

"The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them. That's the essence of inhumanity."

George Bernard Shaw

SECOND PLACE

Eric Rutherford
Abingdon

Leaping whitetail doe, Middle Fork Holston River, Washington County.

Nikon D50 digital camera, Nikkor 80-200 f.2.8 lens, ISO 800, 1/500th, f.2.8.

THIRD PLACE (tie)

Mundy Hackett

Richmond

Eastern fox squirrel, southwestern Virginia.

Nikon D200 digital camera, Nikkor 500mm f.4.0 lens, ISO 400, no shutter speed recorded, f.6.3.

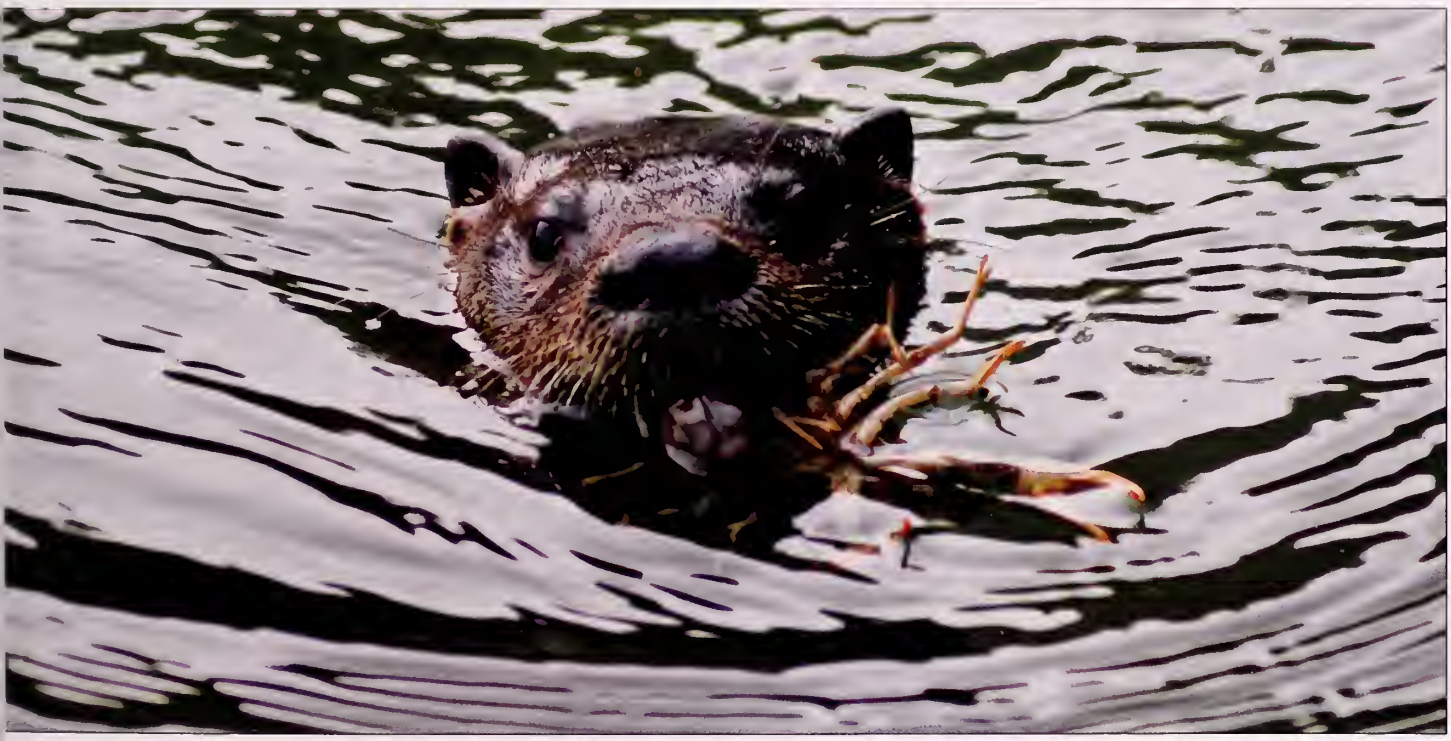
THIRD PLACE (tie)

Barbara Oplinger

Hardy

Otter crunching a crayfish, Smith Mountain Lake.

Sony Alpha 100 digital camera, 75-300mm lens at 300mm, ISO 400, no shutter speed recorded, f.5.6.



"Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much larger and better in every way."

John Muir

HONORABLE MENTION

Dennis Jordan

Powhatan

Whitetail fawn, Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park.

Fuji Finepix S5Pro digital camera, Nikkor 800-200mm f.2.8 lens, ISO 100, 1/50th, f.3.2, on Gitzo tripod with Studioball head.

HONORABLE MENTION

Stacey S. Sutton

Woodbridge

Whitetail does on Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park.

Nikon D70 digital camera, 70-300mm lens, ISO 800, 1/200th, f.5.0.

A Bug's Life

"Each species is a masterpiece, a creation assembled with extreme care and genius."

Edward O. Wilson

FIRST PLACE

Graham Hobbs
Rustburg

Dobson fly, Rustburg.

Graham wins first place for his surprising and colorful image of a Dobson fly clinging to a day lily. The judges picked this photograph because we'd never seen an image like this before. We loved the way the wings of the fly continued the pattern of the petals of the flower, and loved the dull coloring of the fly against the bright flower and green background.

Canon PowerShot S3 IS digital camera, using automatic settings.

SECOND PLACE

Kitt Amaritnant

Virginia Beach

Spider with prey, Lake James, Virginia Beach.

Nikon D2X digital camera, Nikkor 80-400mm lens, ISO 400, 1/200th, f.5.6.

"Sometimes you can tell a large story with a tiny subject."

Eliot Porter

HONORABLE MENTION

Victoria Dye

Charlottesville

Bluet on grass, Crozet.

Canon EOS 1D Mark II digital camera, Canon 70-200mm IS lens, ISO 400, 1/1250th, f.5.0.

THIRD PLACE

William T. Hark
Richmond

Question Mark butterfly (spring/fall form) on black-eyed Susan, Henrico County.

Canon PowerShot SD800 IS digital camera, automatic settings.

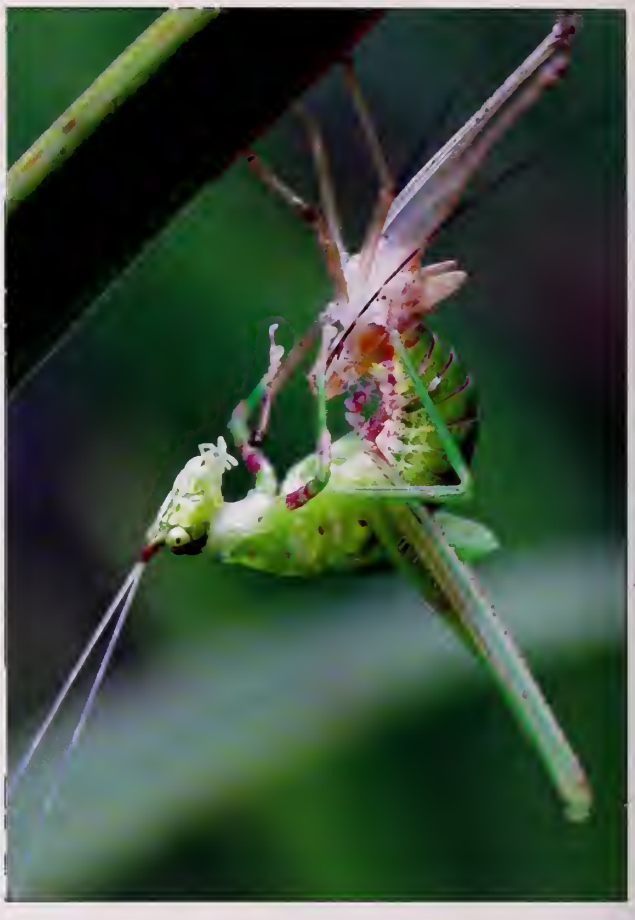
HONORABLE MENTION

David G. Boyd

Falmouth

Jumping spider eating a stinkbug, Fredericksburg.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, Sigma 28-80mm lens, ISO 200, 1/200th, f.8.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

Tanya S. Hale

Ft. Blackmore

Katydid shedding its skin, Scott County.

Canon EOS D60 digital camera, Canon EF 100 mm macro lens, ISO 400, 1/15th, f.8.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Douglas Graham

Bluemont

American painted lady on purple coneflower, location not reported.

Nikon D2Xs digital camera, Nikkor 105mm micro lens with R1C1 macro flash units, 1/250th, f.8.0.

Birds of a Feather

FIRST PLACE

David L. Everette
Richmond

Great blue heron, James River, Richmond.

David wins first place for his beautiful image of a great blue heron near Fish Ladder Falls on the James River in Richmond. The judges loved this image for its gorgeous evening light, wonderful use of slow shutter speed to blur the water while everything else is tack sharp, and the interesting juxtaposition of the rounded boulders and the curves of the herons' neck.

Canon EOS 30D digital camera, Canon 400mm lens, ISO 100, 1/10th, f.13.

SECOND PLACE

Alli Baird

Richmond

A great blue heron releasing a water snake after 20 minutes of trying to eat it. The snake eventually lost the battle. Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague.

Nikon D200 digital camera, Nikkor 80-400mm VR lens, ISO 200, 1/1000th, f.7.1.

HONORABLE MENTION

Nancie E. Laing

Chesapeake

Brown pelican, Virginia Living Museum, Newport News.

Canon EOS Rebel XT digital camera, 125mm, ISO 100, 1/30th, f.4.5.

"Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune–without words
And never stops at all."

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) poet

THIRD PLACE

Brett Dawson
Aylett

White-breasted nuthatch shot from a blind in his yard, Aylett.

Canon EOS 10D, Sigma 70-300mm lens, ISO 400, 1/30th, f.6.7.

HONORABLE MENTION

Marvin D. Powers
Chesapeake

Red-tailed hawk, Chesapeake.

Canon EOS 20D digital camera, 400mm lens, f.5.6, no exposures available.

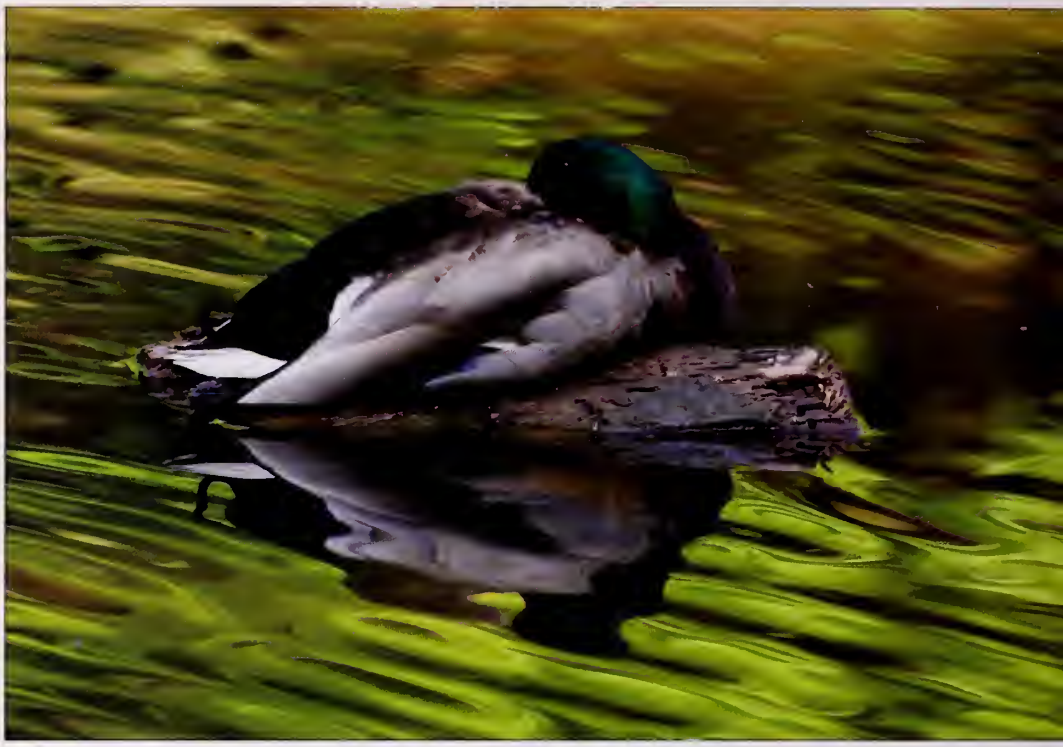
HONORABLE MENTION

Judith McGuire

Annandale

Mallard drake sleeping, Lake Braddock, Burke.

Nikon 80D digital camera, 70-300mm lens, ISO 400, 125th, f.5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Don Saunders

Kennesaw, GA (formerly of Fairfax)

Barn swallow fledglings begging, Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria.

Canon EOS 1D Mark II digital camera, Canon EF 500mm lens with 1.4X extender, ISO 200, 1/1000th, f.5.6.

Fantastic Flowers

FIRST PLACE

Ted W. Sweetland, Jr.
Midlothian

Rhododendron, Grayson Highlands State Park.

Ted wins first place for his fabulous picture of rhododendron blooming at the base of rock outcroppings in Grayson Highlands State Park at "Rhododendron Gap" on the way to the summit of Mt. Rogers. The judges loved the composition, sharpness, and juxtaposition of the pink flowers against the gray rocks and blue sky.

Canon EOS 30D digital camera, Canon 18-55mm lens, ISO 100, 1/125th, f.7.1.

"Many go through the meadow, but few see the flowers in it."

Emerson

SECOND PLACE

Alli Baird
Richmond

Milkweed pod & seeds, Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park.

Nikon E8800 digital camera, Nikkor lens shot at 35.9mm, ISO 200, 1/250th, f.5.4.

Fantastic Flowers

THIRD PLACE

Tanya S. Hale
Ft. Blackmore

Aster growing through log, Scott County.

Canon EOS D60 digital camera, Canon EF 100mm macro lens, ISO 100, 0.7 sec, f.22 with tripod.

HONORABLE MENTION

Phillip D. Southard
Orange

Common burdock starting to bloom, Dark Hollow Falls, Shenandoah National Park.

KM (Konica Minolta) Maxxum 5D, Tamron 90mm macro lens, ISO 100, 1 sec, f.8.0 with tripod.

HONORABLE MENTION

Annemarie Anderson
Alexandria

Water lily, Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria.

Canon PowerShot S2 IS, no lens or ISO recorded, 1/100th, f.8.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Judith K. McGuire
Annandale

Close-up of meadow plants and spider web after a rain, Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park.

Nikon Coolpix E4500 digital camera with built in lens, ISO 200, 1/230th, f.8.0.

Kids & Cameras 6-12

FIRST PLACE

Aylett Lipford, 11
Richmond

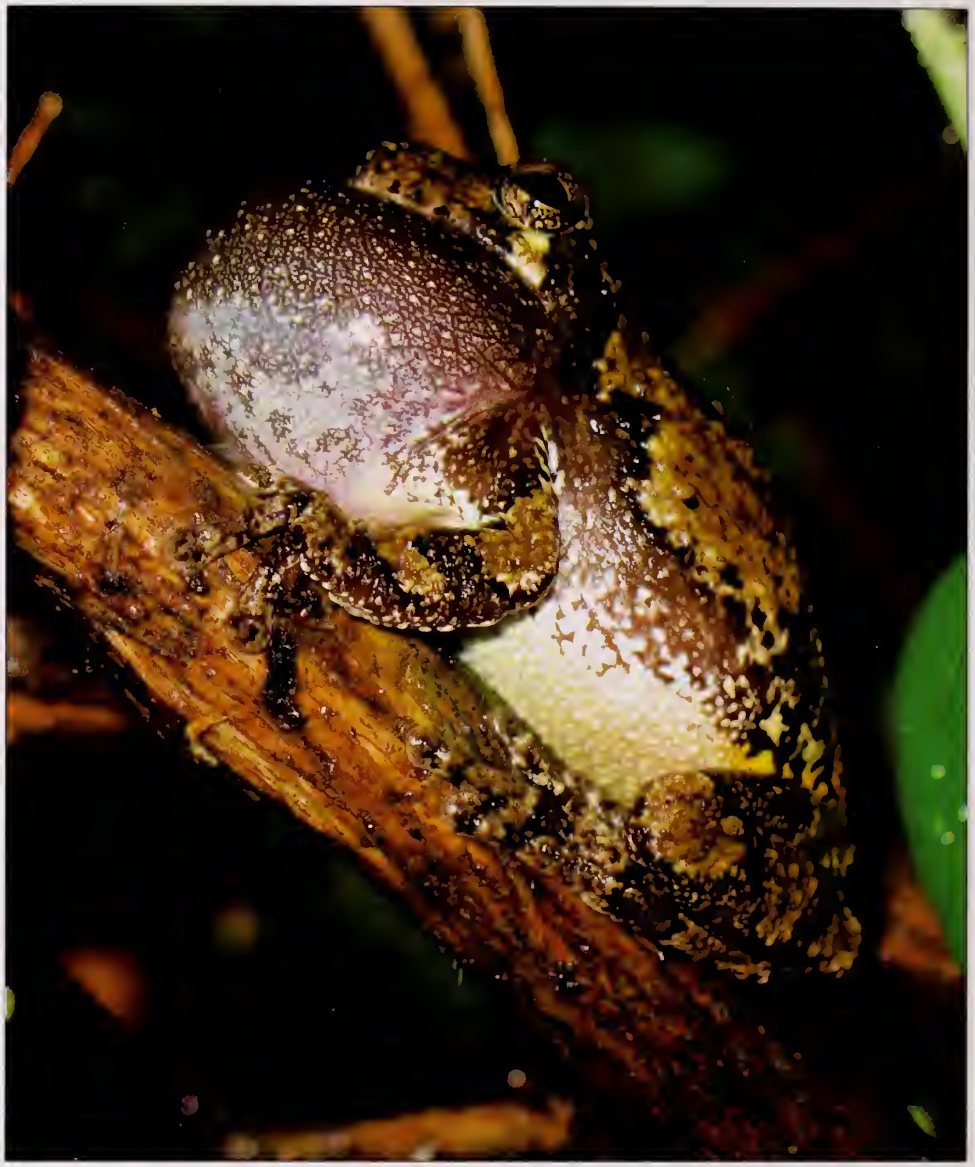
Water snake with brook trout, White Oak Canyon, Shenandoah National Park.

Congratulations to Aylett for this fabulous eye level photograph of a water snake devouring a trout. Aylett reports that during a family hike to White Oak Canyon they spotted the snake swimming in a pool at the bottom of the first waterfall and saw the trout swimming in the same pool. Suddenly, the water snake caught the trout and presented a great photo opportunity!

Nikon Coolpix L4 digital camera, automatic settings.

"I can't be startled by the unexpected. I have to be looking for it and be prepared for it to happen."

Nevada Weir, travel photographer



SECOND PLACE

Shaphan Shank, 9

Dayton

Gray tree frog calling, Dayton.

Canon Powershot A630 digital camera, macro setting, auto exposures.

THIRD PLACE

Lewis Pardo, 10

Alexandria

Merganser with brood, Huntley Meadows Park, Alexandria.

Nikon D50 digital camera, Nikkor AF 35-70mm lens, no exposures provided.

HONORABLE MENTION

Nancy Martin, 8

Glen Allen

Black bear, Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park.

Olympus Stylus 1000 digital camera, ISO 400, 1/250th, f.4.1.

HONORABLE MENTION

Joel Cox, 9

Ashland

Marbled salamander, Hanover County.

Canon Rebel XT digital camera, no other information provided.

HONORABLE MENTION

Emily Dawson, 12

Aylett

Chickadee, Aylett.

Canon EOS 10D digital camera, Sigma 70-300mm lens, ISO 100, 1/125th, f.5.6.

Kids & Cameras 13-18

FIRST PLACE

Cara D. McCabe, 17
Mechanicsville

Eastern garter snake with pickerel frog, Mechanicsville.

Congratulations to Cara for her awesome "up close and personal" photograph of a garter snake trying to eat a pickerel frog. Cara reports that her mother found the snake in their backyard trying to eat the frog but it had "bit off more then it could chew and was unable to swallow the frog." Eventually, the frog escaped and there was no sign of the snake.

Sony Cybershot DSC-S75 digital camera, ISO 120, no shutter speed recorded, f.2.5.

"The camera always points both ways. In expressing the subject, you also express yourself."

Freeman Patterson

SECOND PLACE

Martin Beers, 14

Blacksburg

Praying mantis on purple coneflower, Blacksburg.

Canon Powershot A530 digital camera, 1/60th, f.5.5.

THIRD PLACE

Christopher Wirth, 18

Powhatan

Ant with prey, Powhatan.

Canon EOS 30 D digital camera, Canon EF 100mm macro f.2.8 lens, Kenko 25mm extension tube, ISO 100, 1/250th, f.16, Canon Mt-24EX Macro Twin Lite Flash with custom made flash diffuser.

HONORABLE MENTION

Ed-Leea Gilmore, 17

Richmond

Sunrise at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

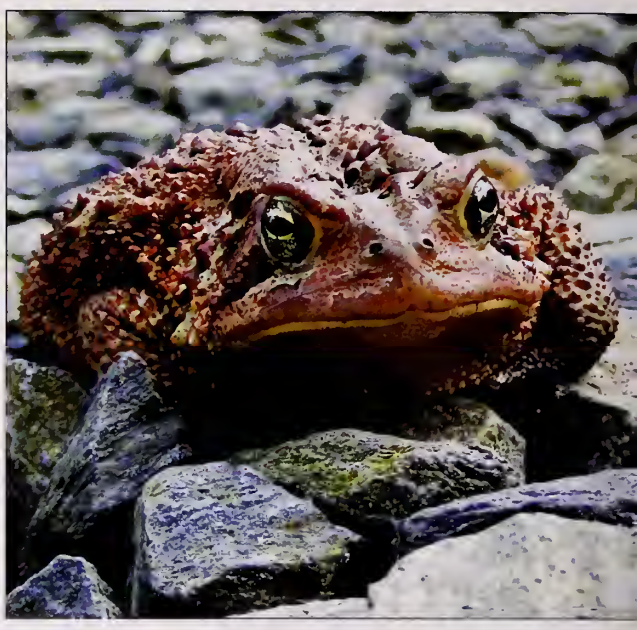
Canon EOS 40D digital camera, Canon 100-400mm lens, ISO 160, 1/100, f.4.0.

HONORABLE MENTION

Dillon Rapalee, 14
Goochland

Dad calling an owl during a turkey hunt, Goochland.

Nikon Coolpix P4 digital camera, ISO 118, no shutter recorded, f.3.1.



HONORABLE MENTION

Rebecca Coordes, 14
Willis

American toad, Willis in Floyd County.

Fuji Finepix S700 digital camera, ISO 100, 1/60th, f.3.5.

HONORABLE MENTION

Kayla L. Strong, 16
Gate City

Garden snail on moss, Scott County.

Canon EOS Rebel K2 film camera, Quantaray 70-300mm lens with macro feature, Fuji Velvia slide film, Bogen-Manfrotto tripod.

HONORABLE MENTION

Wil Cleaveland, 15
Roanoke

Bluebird fledglings begging for food from parents, Roanoke.

Nikon D80 digital camera, Quantaray 70-300mm lens, ISO 200, no shutter speed recorded, f.5.6.

2008 *Virginia Wildlife* Photography Contest

It's time to enter your best photographs and let *Virginia Wildlife* magazine showcase your images for thousands to see. Special prizes will be donated by Eastman Kodak, Richmond Camera and *Virginia Wildlife* and will be given to contest winners. And, two very talented contest winners will have their photographs featured on the cover (adult) and back cover (kid) of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine as the Grand Prize.

Categories

1. *Birds of a Feather*
   Photographs must be of birds native to and photographed in Virginia.
2. *Cold and Clammy Critters*
   Photographs must be of reptiles, fish and amphibians native to Virginia.
3. *A Bug's Life*
   Photographs must be of insects (which include butterflies), spiders, or other creepy-crawlies photographed in Virginia.
4. *Fantastic Flowers*
   Photographs must be of flowers, trees, grasses and shrubs that are native to and photographed in Virginia.
5. *Marvelous Mammals*
   Photographs must be of mammals native to and photographed in Virginia.
6. *Scenic Seasons*
   Photographs will highlight the four seasons; Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, and shot in Virginia.
7. *The Sporting Life*
   Pictures should feature hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, camping and wildlife watching in Virginia. Please make sure that all activities are done in a SAFE manner (i.e., lifejackets, blaze orange, eye and hearing protection).
8. *Kids and Cameras*
   This is a two-part category that encourages kids ages 6-12 and 13-18 to enter any of the above categories.

How to Enter:

1. The contest is open to any photographer, amateur or professional, except employees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Contest-related usage rights must be available to *Virginia Wildlife*.

2. Each photographer may enter up to three (3) digital images per category. **Submissions will not be returned.**

3. All images submitted must have been taken in Virginia within the past five (5) years.

4. All contest entries must be listed on a piece of paper or "Delivery Memo" with your name, address and phone number. Each entry must be individually listed on this paper stating the category in which it is entered and any details on how and where the image was taken. If possible, please indicate camera type, make, model, lens, film and settings used to take the photograph. Feel free to elaborate on any story surrounding the photograph as well.

5. **Digital images:** Preferably high resolution JPEG or TIFF files at 360 dpi and a file size of at least 8-1/2 X 11. One CD or DVD per category. Label each disk with your name, category and phone number. No digital prints required. **Submissions will not be returned.**

Digital images that are grainy or show pixilation cannot be accepted for judging. Do not submit images which have been digitally manipulated. Manipulation of exposure, cropping and some color correction is acceptable. It is not acceptable to remove or add features to an image.

6. We prefer that all photographs taken be of wild animals or plants in the wild but will accept photographs of animals or plants taken under "controlled conditions" or in captive situations. Shots of animals or plants in the wild are given preference over captive shots. Wild animals should not be captured for the sole purpose of photographs for this contest. If you do photograph captive or "controlled" animals this MUST be stated in the Delivery Memo.

7. **Submissions must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. November 3, 2008.** Winning entries will appear in the March 2009 issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine.

8. Mail your contest entries to: 2008 Annual Photography Contest, c/o *Virginia Wildlife* Magazine, 4010 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. The courier address is: 2008 Annual Photography Contest c/o *Virginia Wildlife* Magazine, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230. It is recommended that you send your submission by certified, registered mail, or by a courier who uses a tracking number to locate lost packages.

9. *Virginia Wildlife* staff members and well-known wildlife/environmental photographer Lynda Richardson will judge all entries. Contest judges will not be responsible for lost mail.

The Virginia Wildlife *Annual Photography Contest is offered as a way to bring greater appreciation of Virginia's wildlife and natural resources.*

Entries for the 2008 *Virginia Wildlife* Annual Photography Contest must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. November 3, 2008.

Virginia Wildlife Magazine subscription calls only 1-800-710-9369
Twelve issues for $12.95!
All other calls to (804) 367-1000
Visit our Web site at www.dgif.virginia.gov